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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Iran

SUBJECT Political Groups in Iran

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1. Hadj Abul-Quassem Refi is important in the Djehad-E Moqadass (Holy Fight for the Faith). The organization is to open its own building. The financial support probably comes from religiously inclined bazaar merchants. Whether the party can attain any mass support is doubtful. The government permits this party without showing it any special favor.
2. The Estequal (Independence) party is also led by a businessman, Abdul-Ghadir Asad, and has its own building. The membership is small.
3. According to Dr. Monchi-Zadek, head of the right-radical Sumka, the membership of the group is on the increase. He claims that the earlier figure of 2,000 uniformed members in Teheran and 10,000 in the provinces has been much surpassed. Relations between the Sumka and government are currently good. It is said that court and army give it financial support.
4. A new uniformed group is worthy of attention. It calls itself "Union of the National Rising of 28 Mordat" (19 Aug 53), or "Shad" for short, the initial letter of which is that of "Shah". Its emblem is a stylized letter resembling a swastika. Most of the members come from sports groups. It is led by Ghulam-Risa Madshid, former head of the "Babr" sport club. The organization has fine uniforms and cars and is looked upon with favor by army and police. It numbers about 200.
5. There has recently been a new political organization in the Teheran streets, headed by Sha'baan Dsha Fari, called "Bi-Munch" (Brainless). It consists of 100 to 150 men, who call themselves "Devotion of our Lives to Heroic Youth" and have the motto "God, Shah and Fatherland." They wear white blouses with red insignia. They are frequently seen in jeeps, which probably come from the army. The tendency of the organization is anti-Communist.
6. Efforts to build a mass organization in support of the Zahedi regime have not succeeded.

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